

Heath *et al* (1983) *Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland* **10** show that the species has been recorded from south-west Wales but that area is not given in the distributional summary by Skinner, B. (1984) *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. This suggests that there are no recent Welsh records. I. D. WALLACE, Liverpool Museum, 2.4.1987.

AN INTERESTING SPECIMEN OF THE WHITE PROMINENT MOTH – following the recent articles in this Journal about *Leucodontia bicoloria* D. & S. (S.C.S. Brown, *Ent. Rec.* **98**: 9-10 and R. F. Haynes **96**: 1-6) I was fascinated to notice in the British Museum (Natural History) under one of the assumed British specimens of *bicoloria* the note "Seen by the Poet Swinburn". This refers to the great Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburn, I presume. Was he, perhaps, a collector? Can anyone throw any light on this? Dr. P. J. EDWARDS, Stars Cottage, Stars Lane, Dinton, Bucks.

THE WHITE ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY IN CENTRAL OXFORD – on three occasions during the summers of 1985 and 1986 I observed specimens of *Lagoda camilla* L. in Central Oxford. The first was on the afternoon of 17.viii.1985, when I observed a butterfly settled on the pavement adjacent to the Town Hall. The second was observed settled in a quiet street on 14.vii.1986, and a third two days later flying near a church in main shopping street (Cornmarket). All seemed unlikely habitats for this fine butterfly. K. EDWARDS 15 Cobden Street, Dundee.

Current Literature

Sphingidae Mundi: Hawk Moths of the world by Bernard D'Abrera. 226 pp. 80 colour plates. 250 x 340 mm. E. W. Classey Ltd., 1987. £97.50.

This superb work on the hawk-moths of the world is the first single volume on the Sphingidae to be published for over 80 years, and fulfills a need long felt by students and collectors of this interesting family.

The book follows the now familiar format of Bernard D'Abrera's preceding works on the Butterflies of the World with a short introduction followed by a two page glossary and a systematic catalogue of genera. The following 200 pages comprise a systematic, illustrated catalogue of the known species of Sphingidae. Over 1000